Management, Technical Inspection, Approval and procurement.

(b) Total sanctioned cost of the ProjectisRs 966.7crores. TheCana-dian assistance is Cdn. % 166 millions. The Foreign Exchange component to the Project is covered by a concessional credit from Export Development Corporation of Canada.

(c)and (d). Met-chem has been engaged by the Canadian Commercial Corporation as executing agency for Rajmahal Open Cast Coal Mine. In the course of executing the contract, Met-chem will be supplying engineering services and procuring equipments including mining, earthmoving, communication etc. As per the Articles of agreement Canadian commercial Corporation is fully responsible for implementation of the Project.

Action Plan for development of abandoned collieries in Bihar

7343. SHRI S. S.AHLUWALIA Will the Minister of COAL be please to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan for the development and afforestation of old and abandoned collieries in the State of Bihar; and

(b) If so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Restoration of land and implementation of environmental safeguards in old worked out mines has beeni dent-fied as one of the thrust areas during 8th Five Year Plan period. An amount erf Rs. 75 crores has been provided in the overall outlay for the 8th Five Year Plan for undertaking the environmental restoration and subsidence control measures in the coalfield areas including those located in Bihar. In addition a diagnostic study for dealing with coalfield fires in Hharia Coalfield in Bihar has also been taken up with the assistance of the World Bank.

Development of roads in colliery areas in Bihar

7344. SHRI S. S.AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how much money has been spent during the last three years by Government and Coal Companies for the development of roads in colliery areas of Bihar with details of each year;

(b) what was the total stretch of roads developed during the said period; and

(c) how much amount has been earmarked for the development of roads in Colliery areas of Bihar during the Eighth Plan period with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd. (CIL), money spent by the coal companies in Bihar during the last three years for development of roads was as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1991-92	1768.30
1992-93	975.45
1993-94	1572.55

The above figures include the amounts disbursed by the Govt, in Ministry

of Coal to coal companies for road development from out of the fund realised under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Conservation & Develop ment) Act, 1974.

(b) The total stretch of roads developmed by coal companies in Bihar during the last three years was 112.60 Kms.

(c) CIL have informed that the following amounts have been tentatively earmarked for road development in collieries located in Bihar during the Eighth Plan period:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Company	Amount earmarked
Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL)	373.00
Bharat Coking Coalfields Ltd. (BCCL) . .	1480.00
Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL)	5988.00

Revision of rate of royalty on coal

7345. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to revise the rate of royalty on coal;

(b) whether the coal producing states have been making this demand since long;

(c) if so, the steps taken to revise the rate of royalty on coal; and

(d) the details of the revision proposed to be made on different grades of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJITKUMARPANJA): (a) Under the provisions of Section 9 of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 the rates of royalty on minerals can be enhanced only once in a period of three years. Since the last increase in royalty on coal was effected on 1-8-1991, the next increase can only be effected on or after 1-8-1994.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Govt, had appointed a study group to inter-alia examine the requests of the State Govts, for increases in coal royalty and make suitable recommendations.

(d) The details of revised rates of royalty applicable to different grades coal are notified in the official gazette Copies are also placed on the Tables of both Houses of the Parliament.

Investigation of shortages in B.C.C.L

7346. SHRI GOBINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Committee to investigate the shortages in the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report and if not why such inordinate delay in submitting the report;

(c) whether Government have accepted the findings of the Commitee;

(d) if so, the details of the top level executives management held responsible for such huge shortages to-the extent of nearly six thousand crore Rupees; and

(e) what action Government propose to take against these guilty officers?